Pro:24:30-34

The Field of the Slothful.

"I went by the field of the slothful,
And by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;
And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns,
The face thereof was covered with weeds,
And the stone wall thereof was broken down.

Then I beleld(perceived)
And set my mind to consider it;
I saw and lay hold of the lesson:

Yet a little sleep,
A little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to lie down--
So shall thy poverty come as one marching,
And thy want as an armed man."

INTRO:-

A. The picture of the Wiseman beholding the Neglected Field.

B. Definition of Idleness.

1.Uselessness. 2. Fruitlessness. 3. Triviality.
4.Inactivity. 5. Laziness.

C.Idleness defined in figurative terms.

1."The devil's workshop.

2."The hatchery of nearly all our vices selfishness; unbalanced feelings; backbiting; lusts; mischief-making; malice; treachery etc.

3. The Grave of the Living Man.

J.G.Holland:-"The idle man stands outside of God's plan, outside of the ordained scheme of things; and the truest self-respect, the noblest independence, and the most genuine dignity are not to be founf there."

D.Classification of the several varieties into "inactive" and "active".

I.<u>The Inactivities of Life</u>.

1. Inactivity is idleness(def. 4).

Seneca;-"In the distribution of human life, we find that a great part of it passes away in evil-doing; a greater yet in doing just nothing at all; and effectually the whole in doing things beside our business."

2.Scraps of ~~wasted~~ time, like scraps of iron, can be utilized. But unlike iron, they cannot be heaped up to any extent.

a/empty moments b/deferred moments-"A stitch in time

II.<u>The Active Forms of Idleness</u>.

1.<u>The doing of Unnecessary thing in the place of the Necessary ones.</u>

a/ Foolish things saved from a fire.
b/ The many unnecessary things we do.
c/ The many vital things we leave undone.
d/ The use of a 1000 horsepower engine to run a sewing machine.

2. <u>The doing of the less necessary in place of the more necessary</u>

Mary and Martha

"Martha, Martha, thou art anxious and troubled about many

things: but one thing is needful: for Mary hath chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

III. The doing of things in a half-hearted, bunglesome way.

A. The lack of efficient workers in all departments.
B. Badly formed characters and inconsistent lives.

IV. The Evil Consequences of Idleness.

1. It swerves us away from our Life-Purpose.
   throws us out of our orbits
2. It reduces our power of concentration until only that which is sensational and gaudy can hold our attention.
   The brain cells grow flabby and feeble.
3. It lessens our powers of endurance.
   The work becomes too difficult and but a drudgery.
4. It raises mountains of insurmountable difficulties.
   B.R.Hayden:- "It is sloth that makes things hard and impossible; and it is industry that overcomes difficulties and accomplishes the impossible."
5. Makes us subjects of Poverty.
   Pro.12:24 The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall pay tribute."
   Pro:- "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest and have nothing.

Poverty in material things.
Poverty in intellectual attainments.
Poverty in spiritual matters.

V. How the habit of idleness is established within us.

1. By our neglect of the little things.
2. By our little neglect of the big things.
   " A little sleep, a little folding of the hands

Benjamin Franklin, "A little neglect may breed great mischief. For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost; being overtaken and slain by the enemy; all for the want of a little care about a horse-shoe nail."

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710